

REMARKS

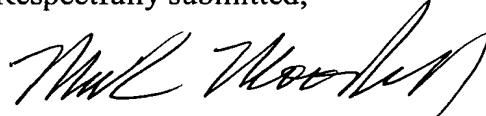
Claims 1 and 3-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 31-33 are added.

In section 8 on page 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 31 corresponds to originally pending claim 9, rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 1, from which it directly depended. Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 31, and correspond to claims 10 and 11 that depended from originally pending claim 9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MRW/sqb

Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

Date: December 10, 2004

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